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Global health and foreign policy

Draft resolution submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1] and its Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015, Heads of State and Government made a bold commitment to achieve universal health coverage by 2030, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all,

Recalling its resolution 71/159 of 15 December 2016, entitled "Global health and foreign policy: health employment and economic growth", which underlined the primary responsibility of Member States to accelerate the transition towards universal health coverage,

Recalling also its resolution 72/139 of 12 December 2017, entitled "Global health and foreign policy: addressing the health of the most vulnerable for an inclusive society", in which it decided to hold a high-level meeting in 2019 on universal health coverage,

Recalling further its resolution 67/81 of 12 December 2012, entitled "Global health and foreign policy", in which it recognized the responsibility of Governments to urgently and significantly scale up efforts to accelerate the transition towards universal access to affordable and quality health-care services and that effective and financially sustainable implementation of universal health coverage is based on a resilient and responsive health system, and reaffirming the primary responsibility of Member States to determine and promote their own paths towards achieving universal health coverage,

Recalling its resolution 72/138 of 12 December 2017, entitled "International Universal Health Coverage Day", in which it decided to proclaim 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day,

[1] Resolution 70/1.

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Recognizing that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — of sustainable development and that, despite progress made, challenges in global health, including major inequities and vulnerabilities within and among countries, regions and populations, still remain and demand persistent attention,

Emphasizing the need for the high-level meeting to complement and build on preceding and ongoing health processes and initiatives, including the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS held in New York from 8 to 10 June 2016 and the high-level meeting on antimicrobial resistance held in New York on 21 September 2016, as well as the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis and the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, convened in New York on 26 and 27 September 2018, respectively,

Welcoming the convening of the Global Conference on Primary Health Care, on achieving universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals, held in Astana on 25 and 26 October 2018, in celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration,[2] which may contribute to the debates of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on universal health coverage,

1. *Decides* that the one-day high-level meeting on universal health coverage to be convened by the President of the General Assembly shall be held in New York a day before the start of the general debate of the Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m., consisting of an opening segment, a plenary segment for general discussion, two multi-stakeholder panels and a brief closing segment;

2. *Also decides* that the overall theme of the high-level meeting will be "Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world";

3. *Further decides* that:

(a) The opening segment, to be held from 9 to 9.30 a.m., will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session, the Secretary-General, the Director General of the World Health Organization, the President of the World Bank Group, as well as an eminent high-level champion of universal health coverage, selected, in consultation with Member States, by the President of the General Assembly, giving due consideration to gender equity;

(b) The plenary segment, to be held from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 5.30 p.m., will comprise statements by Member States and observers of the General Assembly; a list of speakers will be established in accordance with established practices of the Assembly, and the time limits for these statements will be three minutes for individual delegations and five minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States;

(c) The closing segment, to be held from 5.30 to 6 p.m., will comprise summaries of the multi-stakeholder panels and concluding remarks by the President of the General Assembly;

4. *Decides* that the organizational arrangements for the two multi-stakeholder panels will be as follows:

(a) Two multi-stakeholder panels will be held in parallel to the plenary segment, one from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the other from 3 to 5 p.m.;

(b) Each of the two multi-stakeholder panels will be co-chaired by two representatives, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to

[2] A/47/60-S/23329, annex II.

be appointed by the President of the General Assembly from among the Heads of State or Government attending the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States, taking into account gender equity, level of development and geographical representation;

(c) The themes of the multi-stakeholder panels will take into consideration the direction and outcomes of other preceding health processes and initiatives, as well as the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, with a view to ensuring the most effective and efficient outcomes and potential deliverables and to sharing experiences and lessons learned to address remaining implementation gaps;

(d) The President of the General Assembly may invite parliamentarians, local governments, the heads or senior representatives of relevant United Nations entities, including the World Bank, development partners, civil society, the private sector, academia, medical associations, indigenous leadership and community organizations to serve as speakers on the panels, taking into account gender equity, level of development and geographical representation;

5. *Also decides* that the high-level meeting shall approve a concise and action-oriented political declaration, agreed in advance by consensus through intergovernmental negotiations, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly for adoption by the Assembly;

6. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, with the support of the World Health Organization and other relevant partners, to organize and preside over an interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, before the end of July 2019, with the active participation of appropriate senior-level representatives of Member States, observers of the General Assembly, parliamentarians, representatives of local government, relevant United Nations entities, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations, philanthropic foundations, academia, medical associations, the private sector and broader communities, ensuring the participation and voices of women, children, youth and indigenous leadership, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, and also requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing prior to the high-level meeting;

7. *Encourages* all Member States to participate in the high-level meeting, including the multi-stakeholder panels, at the highest possible level, preferably at the level of Heads of State and Government, and invites all observers of the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level;

8. *Invites* the United Nations system, including funds, programmes and specialized agencies, including the World Health Organization, regional commissions and relevant envoys of the Secretary-General, to participate in the high-level meeting, as appropriate, and urges them to consider relevant initiatives, such as the International Health Partnership for UHC2030, in support of the preparatory process and the meeting, particularly with regard to sharing evidence and good practices, challenges and lessons learned;

9. *Invites* the Inter-Parliamentary Union to contribute to the high-level meeting;

10. *Invites* non-governmental organizations with relevant expertise that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the Secretariat to attend the meeting and the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing;

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may attend the high-

level meeting and participate in the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing and the multi-stakeholder panels, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard to the meaningful participation of women, and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis;[3]

12. *Invites* members of civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, development partners and other relevant initiatives to make a fundamental contribution to the process in terms of raising awareness of the importance of universal health coverage and its contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;[1]

13. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their national delegation ministers from all relevant ministries, as appropriate, as well as representatives such as parliamentarians, mayors and governors, representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, indigenous leadership, community organizations and faith-based organizations, academia, philanthropic foundations, the private sector and universal health coverage networks, with due regard to gender equity;

14. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, in close consultation with Member States, including the themes of the multi-stakeholder panels in line with paragraph 4 (c) of the present resolution.

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[3] The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.